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SOCIALIST PARTY

STATE CONSTITUTION
OF COLORADO

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State Constitution

OF
THE

Socialist Party

of

COLORADO



*Adopted by Referendum Vote in
September, 1909*



In Effect from Nov. 1, 1909

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CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I.

Name and Purpose.

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the Socialist Party of Colorado. It shall be an integral part of the Socialist Party of the United States, affiliated with the Socialist Movement of the world.

Sec. 2. The purpose is to develop and maintain a political party, upon the basis of the working-class interest, through organization, education and the use of the ballot; to obtain the powers of government for the purpose of establishing an industrial democracy and a co-operative commonwealth.

ARTICLE II.

Headquarters.

Section 1. The State headquarters of the Party shall be in Denver, unless changed by the State Committee, subject to membership referendum.

ARTICLE III.

Principles, Policy and Tactics.

Section 1. The National and State constitutions and platforms shall be the supreme law of the Party organization; and all minor platforms and by-laws must conform thereto.

Sec. 2. The platforms adopted by any minor political organization must be submitted to the Executive Committee, and any objectionable part stricken out before it is published.

ARTICLE IV.

Organization, Management and Authority.

Section 1. The units of organization shall be: (1) Members at Large, (2) Locals, (3) Branches, (4) Executive committees, (5)

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Central committees, (6) Political committees, (7) State officials, (8) and the several committees from Precincts, Wards, Towns, Cities, Counties, Districts and of the State.

Sec. 2. The management and authority on all State party affairs shall be vested in the ascending scale as follows: (1) State Secretary, (2) Executive Committee, (3) State Committee, (4) State Convention, and (5) Membership vote.

ARTICLE V.

Initiative, Referendum and Imperative Mandate.

Section 1. The supreme authority in this party on all questions is the vote of the membership. All party officials, committees, delegates and political officers are the agents of the membership and subject to the supervision, reversion, instructions and recall of the membership they serve, regardless of what authority may be legally vested in them.

Sec. 2. Any referendum to the party membership shall be submitted through the State Secretary, upon a motion of 10 per cent. of the organizations in good standing; or by a smaller number of organizations having a membership of at least 10 per cent. of the State. But in no case must there be less than three organizations in three different counties.

Sec. 3. The Executive Committee or the State Committee may upon a majority vote of their own submit any question to a party referendum. But on an appeal the Executive Committee can by a 40 per cent. vote, and the State Committee by a 20 per cent. vote, submit the question. An appeal by the Executive Committee shall always first be submitted to the State Committee; but an original question may be submitted direct to the membership.

Sec. 4. Every referendum must state each question plainly, so that each can be voted upon separately, without involving any other part. A referendum may carry with it an explanation as to meaning, but one with an advocacy of or against something it proposes to change shall not be submitted.

Sec. 5. When a referendum vote of the State membership is to be taken, the Secretary shall mail to the financial secretary of each Branch, a number of ballots, equal to the number of members in good standing and special ballots upon which returns can be made.

Sec. 6. The Secretary can have printed on the individual ballots instructions as to when it must be voted and to whom returned; also instructions as to when the canvassed vote must be in the State office.

Sec. 7. When a motion for a referendum has been properly made and supported, the Secretary shall submit it within ten days. If the Secretary neglects to do so the mover may through his organization submit the question direct, with an explanation.

Sec. 8. When a motion is made for a referendum and not accompanied by sufficient seconds, it shall be kept open for that purpose for 30 days.

Sec. 9. If the referendum is an amendment to the constitution, or to amend or establish some permanent rule for the Party, it shall be submitted in regular printed or type-written ballots and kept open for amendments for 30 days. Then all properly proposed amendments shall be printed and submitted, in addition to the original ballot.

Sec. 10. An amendment to any referendum that is open for amendment, must state precisely what part of the original it proposes to change and just how that particular part will read.

Sec. 11. To retain the right of an appeal by referendum the motion must be made within 30 days from the time of the act or the decision.

Sec. 12. The financial secretary must either mail a ballot on every referendum to every member in good standing or else send a notice by mail to each member, as to when the ballots will be distributed at some meeting of the organization. Special meetings for this purpose can be called by the Branch executive committee.

Sec. 13. On State Party membership referendums 30 days shall be allowed, and five days more to be canvassed and returns made to reach the State office. On referendum submitted to the State Committee, the vote shall close within 15 days, and to the Executive Committee it shall close within 10 days.

Sec. 14. The result of each referendum shall be published by the Secretary to show the vote of each organization.

Sec. 15. A question submitted by a Party member to the Executive Committee or to the State Committee, must be seconded by another member from another county; but an initiative or appeal to either of these committees by an organization duly certified to by a chairman and the recording secretary is sufficient.

Sec. 16. A city, a county or a larger political division, may initiate and submit a referendum in the same manner as the State does. In districts where there are not over five organizations one may initiate, but if there are more it will require one organization to second before it will be submitted. In counties it should be submitted through the regular county secretary; in larger districts, through any one of the county secretaries, unless one for the district has been designated.

Sec. 17. Unless otherwise provided in our constitution it shall require a majority vote to decide on any referendum. In case another vote is necessary, the two questions or two persons having received the largest vote shall be the ones on the next ballot.

Sec. 18. A member must belong to the organization and be in good standing, and must have been in good standing for the previous month in order to be entitled to vote on any political or party question.

Sec. 19. No member of a suspended organization shall vote, except by sending his vote and membership card to the State office.

Sec. 20. By proof of his good standing, by membership card, any member of a Branch or at Large may vote on any question that covers the district in which he lives. And when such a vote is received the financial secretary must report the name and residence of the voter, when the returns are made to the State office.

Sec. 21. A referendum vote on all questions shall be by secret ballot. The financial secretary shall deliver to each voter a ballot and an envelope. The voter shall write his or her name and correct mail address or residence on the envelope and enclose the ballot sealed therein.

Sec. 22. The Local or Branch canvassing board shall be the financial secretary and two members selected by the organization, when possible to do so. The returns must be signed in ink, by the financial secretary and at least one of the other members. Any party member can be present when the votes are counted.

Sec. 23. The envelopes containing the ballots shall be opened only by the canvassing board, by turning them over face down and extracting the votes in such a manner

as not to be able to know what ballot was in any particular envelope.

Sec. 24. Before any votes are counted the financial secretary must satisfy the canvassing board by his records and accounts that all who voted were in good standing.

Sec. 25. An abstract of the votes cast and the envelopes used must be sent to the State office, marked "Abstract of Votes." No other communications shall be put in the envelope containing the certified abstract, as it will not be opened until the State canvassing board meets.

Sec. 26. No votes shall be counted by the State canvassing board unless the returns are made exactly in the manner herein prescribed.

Sec. 27. In cities and counties where a central organization has been adopted, the returns shall be sent to the secretary of the central committee and an exact duplicate sent with the envelopes to the State office.

Sec. 28. The ballots shall be kept in the hands of the secretary of the organization and the envelopes shall be kept in the State office one year.

Sec. 29. The central committee shall canvass and tabulate the vote of the several Branches and make returns of same showing the vote of each Branch separately.

Sec. 30. The State canvassing board shall be composed of the Secretary, at least one member of the Executive Committee and two party members selected by some organization where the vote is counted. The Secretary and two others shall be necessary to canvass the returns.

The Secretary or Executive Committee member may appoint substitutes for themselves.

ARTICLE VI.

Membership—Qualifications.

Section 1. Any person 18 years old, resident of Colorado, regardless of sex, race, color or creed, who signs the regular application as provided by the National Socialist Party, and pays 25c dues for the month admitted, may become a member.

The application must be signed by a member in good standing, and a majority vote of the membership will admit the applicant.

Sec. 2. Any member of the party in any state, may transfer to any Branch, Local or to Membership at Large, in this State, by signing an application and presenting his or her membership card, showing good standing until the first of the month in which application to transfer is made.

Sec. 3. When an application is made with a membership card, and the applicant has no transfer card, the financial secretary of the organization shall notify the secretary of the former Branch or Local of this transfer. If the applicant is not in good standing the necessary dues must be sent to the former organization before he can be admitted to membership.

Sec. 4. Members of Branches or Locals must be residents of the territory covered by the organization, or reside in an unorganized part of the county. He must live within the county or become a Member at Large.

Sec. 5. All members shall pay dues for the month in which they are admitted, regardless of the date.

Sec. 6. Each member shall receive a membership card, on which shall be affixed dues stamps for the amount paid. This will be recognized as a receipt.

Sec. 7. Dues may be paid for any number of months in advance. Any member in

arrears for three months shall be marked "suspended" on his account, by the financial secretary, on the first of the following month.

Sec. 8. Suspended members shall not have voice nor vote on any party matters, and when six months in arrears shall be marked "dropped" from membership, by the financial secretary, on the first of the seventh month.

Sec. 9. A suspended member may be reinstated upon payment of back dues to date; but a dropped member can come in only as a new member, and membership cannot count back of that time.

Sec. 10. Any member unable to pay dues can be kept in good standing by applying to the organization, which can instruct the financial secretary to affix dues-stamps on the card, unless some other method is adopted. But such dues-stamps shall not be given for more than three months in arrear, nor for more than three months in advance.

Sec. 11. Any person who asserts that political action is useless, or who asserts that political candidates or the use of ballots is no aid in the emancipation of the working class, shall not be admitted to membership.

Sec. 12. Any person holding an elective or appointive office, either honorary or remunerative, by or under the control of any other political party, shall not become a member.

Sec. 13. A political party is any number of persons that present a candidate by any means, at any election provided for by law, whether it is recognized as a party election or non-partisan. It includes elections for members on the boards of education.

Sec. 14. An official position shall carry with it official authority, and not be merely the doing of some professional, clerical or

manual work, as a wage earner under some official.

Sec. 15. Positions that are gained under competitive merit or civil service regulations, such as school teachers and mail carriers are not classed as official political positions. Positions that the Socialist Party is entitled to by law shall not be classed as official positions.

Sec. 16. Upon the rejection of an applicant for membership, an expulsion or a permanent withdrawal from the Party, the recording secretary shall immediately notify the State Secretary, who shall notify the organizations in the State. If such person makes an application to some other organization he shall not be admitted until after the application is endorsed by the organization where the rejection, expulsion or withdrawal took place.

ARTICLE VII.

Members at Large Organization.

Section 1. Any person residing in a rural political precinct, an incorporated town or city, where there is no organized Branch or Local, may become a Member at Large by applying to the Executive Committee, through the State Secretary, by sending a signed application and not less than one month's dues, which is 25c.

Sec. 2. In any county where there are ten Members at Large in good standing, and no organized Local, they may become a Members at Large organization, by electing a member of the State Committee, who shall become the secretary of that organization and the secretary of that county.

Sec. 3. When a Local is organized in the county and is recognized by the State organization, the Members at Large organization shall cease, and a new State Committeeman shall be elected.

Sec. 4. By proof of good standing a Member at Large may vote in any Branch or Local in the State, on any party referendum or other question that covers the territory he claims as his residence. But he shall not vote on anything that is a question of the Branch or Local organization solely.

Sec. 5. Members at Large are eligible to any party or political office in the State, under the same qualifications as members of Branches and Locals.

ARTICLE VIII.

Locals and Branches.

Section 1. Five or more persons may organize a Local or Branch in any city, ward, incorporated town or rural political precinct, where there is no such organization representing the same language or color.

Sec. 2. The application for charter must be sent to the State Secretary, together with 15c for each charter member for first month's dues, and not less than 50c for the necessary supplies.

Sec. 3. A Local may cover either a rural political precinct, a town, a city or a whole county. It may be an undivided unit or it may be composed of several Branches.

Sec. 4. In cities, towns and precincts where there is a postoffice, the Local shall be called by the name of the postoffice. But where there is no postoffice within the territory covered, the name may be the number or name of the precinct, the school district, or name of the locality, as selected.

Sec. 5. An organization that controls only a part, in territory, language, or color, of what the Local controls shall be called a Branch.

Sec. 6. In cities all Branches shall be known and recognized by the name or number of a ward, with language or color added.

In towns or precincts only language and color added to name of Local is needed.

Sec. 7. Each Branch and Local shall have equal jurisdiction over its own members, and be a unit of government and discipline. Each may adopt such by-laws and rules as it deems necessary, if they do not conflict with State or National Party rules and discipline.

Sec. 8. The officials of a Branch shall be the same as of a Local and shall perform the same duties and be under the same discipline of their organizations.

Sec. 9. The permanent officials of a Branch or Local shall be a financial secretary, a recording secretary, a treasurer, a literature agent, and an organizer. One person may hold any two of these positions, but no more. A chairman shall be selected for each meeting.

Sec. 10. The meetings of Locals and Branches shall be called to order by the members of the executive committee in the following order as they may be present: (1) The organizer, (2) the financial secretary, (3) the recording secretary, (4) any party member, if the three officials are absent.

Sec. 11. Each Branch and Local should have not less than one business meeting each month. These shall be held in the territory covered by the organization, except by agreement with the organization that has the territorial jurisdiction.

Sec. 12. The organizer shall arrange for agitation in unorganized territory, solicit applications for membership, procure watchers for the polls and assist during political campaigns.

Sec. 13. The recording secretary shall keep a correct minute record of all proceedings and transactions; he shall read these minutes when called on; he shall read at

the meetings all reports and communications that come into his hands, for the organization, and assist the financial secretary with his work at the meeting, and draw all orders on the treasurer.

Sec. 14. The financial secretary shall keep a set of books that will at all times show the standing of every member; shall issue and sign all the membership cards; shall distribute the ballots on referendums and sign all returns of a vote, with some member of a canvassing board and return same to the proper authorities; shall see that no vote is counted unless cast by a member in good standing; shall order dues-stamps and supplies; shall read on the first meeting of each month the names of all members suspended or dropped from the roll, on the first of that month; also those re-instated the previous month; shall make a regular report on the provided form, to the State office, during the first week of each month; shall, during the first and third quarters of each year report to the State office the names and correct addresses of all members in good standing and also a list of names and addresses of those under suspension; shall send to the State office a copy of all application cards of those admitted; shall report all expulsions and state the cause, to the State office; shall see that all reports and communications that come to him as an official, from the State or National offices, are read at the first meeting thereafter; shall use diligent effort in collecting dues from all members and receive all money, that is coming to the organization, from any source.

Sec. 15. The treasurer shall receive money and pay it out only on an order signed by the chairman of the meeting and the recording secretary; and keep a correct account of same, with vouchers.

Sec. 16. The literature agent shall have charge of the literature; disburse and sell the same; and render an account each month, in open meeting.

Sec. 17. The officials of a Branch or Local shall be elected for a term of six months or a year, as the organization may decide. The term for six months shall begin on January 1st and July 1st. The term for a year may begin at either of these dates. But the officials shall hold and be recognized until others are elected or they are deposed, or in case the new ones fail to qualify.

Sec. 18. The election should take place during the month preceding the beginning of the term. Notice of such election should be announced at an open meeting before the nominations are made or by a notice mailed to every member, in time before the election.

Sec. 19. Nominations may be made by voice or ballot, as the organization decides; but the election must be by ballot, except in cases where there is only one person nominated for a position.

Sec. 20. All English-speaking Branches shall be called American; and a person of any language or color may be admitted; and persons from any English-speaking country should join this. Persons that are either Germans or Austrians can join the German Branch, on account of language. Swedes, Norwegians and Danes should not have national organizations, but join a Scandinavian Branch, as they understand each other. But there may be formed a Bohemian, a Hungarian, a Polish and a Finnish Branch, as their languages differ from each other and from their national governments.

Sec. 21. In order to be eligible to membership in a foreign-speaking Branch or Local, one must understand and speak that

language. But it is not necessary that the business of the organization be conducted in the foreign language.

Sec. 22. All organizations must use the membership cards and affix dues-stamps for the dues received, as that is evidence, over the nation, of the members' standing in the party.

Sec. 23. Each Branch or Local shall collect 25c for each dues-stamp, of which 15c is for state and national dues. Each county or city organization may, by a majority referendum vote of the membership, assess for propaganda or campaign purposes an additional sum, not to exceed 25c a month. But a failure to pay such assessment shall not be cause for censure or suspension.

Sec. 24. Each Branch or Local must pay dues in advance, for at least five members, in order to be in good standing. Dues must be paid at least as often as once in three months; and the month in which payment is made is not counted as one of the three months.

Sec. 25. The time for which an organization has paid in advance will be figured on the total membership in good standing, as reported by the financial secretary in the last monthly report received at the State office.

Sec. 26. On the first day of the month following the month for which the dues have been paid, or when the three months' limit has expired, the State Secretary shall record on the account of such organization that it is "suspended."

Sec. 27. Any Branch or Local can reinstate within three months after suspension and will be credited with reinstatement from the day it is paid. If not reinstated within that time, the Secretary shall mark on the account of, that the "charter is forfeited for non-payment." A reinstatement

requires a payment of all charges up to the date.

Sec. 28. Any organization that fails to make a complete monthly report to the State office for three consecutive months, shall not be in good standing and shall not be entitled to participate in any referendum or state party affairs, until the reports are made.

Sec. 29. Women may organize Socialist clubs for study and propaganda. The members of such clubs need not all be Socialists, but the officials should be.

When so organized the club may hold meetings under the auspices of the organizations, but all who have charge or conduct such public meetings must be party members.

ARTICLE IX.

*County Central Organization.

Section 1. Each county where there are two organizations of either Locals or Branches, may by a majority vote on a referendum, form a central organization to be called a County Local; elect a county central committee, and be chartered, the same as any other organization.

Sec. 2. Each county that has adopted a county central organization should have a permanent headquarters, in some city or town.

Sec. 3. When a County Local is formed, all the existing organizations in the county shall become Branches, on territorial, language or race-color divisions.

Sec. 4. The central committee shall be composed of one delegate at large from each of the Branches or former Locals, and as many more as may be agreed on; but not less than five on any central committee.

*Central committee means the delegate committee elected as per Article IX, 4. And the county central committee is referred to in Article IX, 14.

Sec. 5. The by-laws of such organization shall be submitted to the State Executive Committee, and to a referendum vote of the membership, before the central committee will be recognized. The by-laws must provide for an initiative and referendum authority.

Sec. 6. The central committee can select a county organizer. The county secretary provided for in Article XXI shall be the secretary-treasurer of this committee; and where the law provides for a chairman or other name for a head of a political party in a county the county secretary shall fill that place.

Sec. 7. The central committee shall meet at least once each month, or else provide for a central mass meeting of the membership. Whatever action is taken at one of these central mass meetings shall have the same effect and authority as of a regularly called convention.

Sec. 8. The terms of the delegates to the central committee shall begin on January first and be for one year or six months. If for six months the second term shall begin on July first. They shall be elected by ballot in each organization, during the month previous to the beginning of the term.

Sec. 9. The central committee is the agent of the county committee, and may pass upon any matter that ordinarily goes to the latter, but all acts and decisions are subject to the revision and reversion of the county committee and the party membership.

Sec. 10. The central committee may pass upon any complaint against a Branch, member or official in the whole Local; and may suspend any of these, but refer to the Branch membership if against an individual and the Local membership if against a Branch; shall arrange for both party and

political nominations and conventions, according to law; shall act as county campaign committee and assume all duties of county executive committee and propaganda committee; and the county secretary-treasurer shall report each month to the State office.

Sec. 11. Upon the approval of the acts of the central organization the State Executive Committee shall allow 5c on every dues-stamp sold in the county to be paid into the county secretary-treasurer's hands. The 5c a stamp turned into the county secretary shall be used to pay expenses of propaganda and campaign.

Sec. 12. Any member of the central committee may submit through the secretary, any motion or question for a decision or action.

Sec. 13. A majority of the delegates shall be a quorum and a majority must vote on any question submitted by referendum or it will not be decided, either way.

Sec. 14. The county committee shall be composed of one member from each political precinct in towns and rural districts, and one from each ward in cities.

Sec. 15. The party members of a ward or precinct can select their own committeeman; but in failure to do so these may be selected by a mass meeting first, or by the rest of the committee appointing.

ARTICLE X.

City Central Organization.

Section 1. Cities may organize into a central organization, separate from the system of organization the county may have. It shall organize in the same manner as is prescribed for county central organizations. It shall have charge of all matters pertaining to city affairs and have its representatives in the county organization. It shall

select its own secretary-treasurer and organizer.

Sec. 2. A city must have at least two party organizations, on either territorial, language or color line before it will be chartered as a city central organization.

Sec. 3. If there is no county central organization the Executive Committee may allow to the city central organization, 5c on every dues-stamp sold in the city, to be used for propaganda and campaign purposes.

Sec. 4. The city committee shall be composed of one member from each ward, to be selected in the same manner as is the county committee.

Sec. 5. The wards shall have ward committees, composed of one member from each political precinct, selected in the same manner as city committeemen are elected from the wards.

Sec. 6. When a city covers so much of the county territory that there is not any political precinct outside of the city, then the organizations of the county shall be the same as in the city and the committees for the county shall be the committees for the city, in so far as they can do the same duties. The same committees shall manage both city and county elections and the Local and central organizations shall be called city and county organizations.

ARTICLE XI.

Minor Executive Committees.

Section 1. The financial secretary, the recording secretary and the organizer shall be the executive committee of a Branch or Local organization. If there are only two persons holding these positions, the organization may select another person to act on this committee only; but two shall always be a quorum to act, even if there be three on the committee.

Sec. 2. The duties of this committee shall be to call special meetings of the organization, when needed; to arrange for speakers and provide for meetings, when time does not permit waiting for a meeting of the organization.

Sec. 3. When special meetings are called a notice must be mailed in time to every member in good standing; and the object of the meeting must be stated.

Sec. 4. The acts of the executive committee of a Branch or Local shall be subject to revision and reversion by the organization only.

Sec. 5. This executive committee of Branches shall exist, without regards to whether the county is under central organization or not.

Sec. 6. In counties where there is no central organization or central committee, the county executive committee shall be composed of the members of the several Branch and Local executive committees.

The organizations, however, may reduce the number of members; but in no case shall it be less than five.

Sec. 7. This executive committee of the county shall see that the nominations are made according to legal requirements; shall plan for the political and propaganda meetings of the county. In fact it shall be the political and campaign committee of the county, unless other provisions are made. It shall meet when and where it decides and all acts shall be subject to the revision and reversion of the county committee.

Sec. 8. It may adopt rules and by-laws, to regulate its order of business, and submit same to the State Executive Committee.

Sec. 9. The county secretary, elsewhere provided for, shall be the secretary of the county executive committee.

Cities.

Sec. 10. If there is no central organization in a city, a city executive committee shall be composed of the same officials and in the same manner; and have the same duties (in city matters), as the county executive committee has in county matters. It shall attend to city matters only, under the supervision of the city committee. It shall select its own secretary and such other officers as may be needed.

Sec. 11. As there shall be no county executive committee in any county that has adopted county central organization, so also in a city, there shall be no city executive committee if there is a city central committee.

Sec. 12. Counties where the city and county cover the same territory, and where there is no central organization this executive committee of the county shall be on the same basis of duties for both the city and county, the same as is provided for the city and county committee.

ARTICLE XII.

Political Committees.

Section 1. The political committees for the State, the counties, the towns, and precincts shall be the executive and central committees provided for in this constitution; all subject to the supervision of the general committees and party membership, in the respective territories.

Sec. 2. The political committees for congressional districts, judicial districts, legislative districts for senators and representatives, when covering more than one county and less than the state, shall be composed of the several State Committeemen within the respective districts.

Sec. 3. These political committees shall see that the nominations are properly made

and that campaigns are conducted; that acceptances and resignations are turned in, and assist in any way they see useful.

ARTICLE XIII.

Party Officials and Their Elections.

Section 1. The officials of the party shall be elected by referendum vote of the membership and shall hold office until their successors are elected and qualify, though the term may have expired.

Sec. 2. The term of the regular State officials, including the National Committeeman, shall begin on May 1st and be for one year.

Sec. 3. Between November 15th and December 1st the Secretary shall issue a call upon the Locals, Branches and Members at Large, to nominate candidates for the following positions in the party organization: State Secretary, State Executive Committee, the State Committeemen from the different counties, and the National Committeemen we may be entitled to.

Sec. 4. Each Local, Branch and Member at Large may nominate one for each place to be filled, except for State Committeemen, where each should nominate two which will be designated first and second nominations. If more than one organization or Member at Large nominate different persons, then only the first in each case will be counted; if not both will stand.

Sec. 5. Not over 30 days shall be allowed for the nominatoinis to be returned to the State office, and 10 days will be allowed to accept. Only those that accept the nomination and furnish their membership card or a certificate from the financial secretary, showing that they have been members long enough and are in good standing, shall be put on the ballot.

Sec. 6. When nominations are reported, the correct mail address must be given, in

every case so as to insure notice being mailed right.

Sec. 7. Thirty days shall be allowed to cast the ballots and five days more for the returns to reach the State office.

Sec. 8. All who receive a majority of all votes cast for that position will be elected.

Sec. 9. If a second ballot is necessary, only those two who received the largest number of votes for the one position shall be candidates. This system shall be used in all party elections, whether for State positions or smaller. Elections to fill any vacancy shall be conducted in the same manner.

Sec. 10. A person must have been a member of the party for three consecutive years, and a member of this State Party one year, to be eligible to the nomination of National Secretary, National Committeeman or National Executive Committeeman.

Sec. 11. A person must have been a member of the party for two consecutive years and a member in this state one year, to be eligible to nomination for delegate to a National Convention, a National Congress or an International Congress of the Party.

Sec. 12. No person shall be nominated for any State Party official position who has not been a consecutive member of the party in this state for one year; except for State Committeemen in counties where the organization has not been consecutive that long.

Sec. 13. No person shall be eligible to hold the positions of National Committeeman and National Executive Committeeman, at the same time; nor shall one person hold the position of State Committeeman and State Executive Committeeman at the same time. The State Secretary shall not hold either of the two latter named.

Sec. 14. No person who is editor, manager or owner of a private periodical shall

hold any executive position in the party.

Sec. 15. Any person holding an official Party position, who shall become suspended, or the organization of which he is a member becomes suspended, shall be deprived of the position, unless he immediately shows proof that he has been reinstated or become a member elsewhere.

Sec. 16. Any member who announces himself or advocates himself as candidate for a Party official position shall be deemed ineligible and subject to suspension or expulsion.

Sec. 17. When an organization nominates any member for a position the secretary of that organization shall notify the nominee of the fact, and instruct him where to send his acceptance or declination.

Sec. 18. The Executive Committee or the State Committee may select a State Organizer when they so desire and when one can be used. When so selected, he becomes a State official and he must comply in qualifications with all other State officials. His official position shall end with the term of the other State officials, unless sooner terminated by the committee which selected him. Anyone engaged as a speaker or organizer by the Secretary is not considered a State official.

ARTICLE XIV.

Political Nominations and Candidates.

Section 1. The political committees for the different political divisions shall see that nominations are made, either by convention or by petition, after the candidates have been selected by referendum; shall see that the tickets are filed according to legal requirements and that the requirements of our constitution are complied with.

Sec. 2. The acts of the political commit-

tees shall be subject to the supervision of the general committees and the party membership, the same as all other party affairs.

Sec. 3. In both delegate conventions and mass conventions of the State, the representation shall be one representative at large for each Local (not Branches), and one for each 25 members in good standing. The membership shall be determined by the amount of dues—stamps bought during the six months before the month in which the call was made; or for the time organized, if less than six months.

Sec. 4. Each delegate shall have only one vote, and no proxies. But different Locals in the same county may select the same representative; and when so selected shall have as many votes as he represents.

Sec. 5. Each county where there are five Members at Large and no Local organization, shall have one representative.

Sec. 6. No suspended Branch or Local shall be represented in any convention; nor any organization that was not chartered and paid dues for the month previous to the month in which the call was made.

Sec. 7. No fusion with, nor agreement to receive or give endorsement from or to any political party, shall be made by any committee or organization of the Socialist party. Any organization that sanctions such an agreement shall have its charter revoked by action of the Executive Committee.

Sec. 8. By political party or organization is meant any number of persons who by any method present a candidate for any office provided for by law, whether it be for a member of a school board or any other position. But any organization that merely endorses certain candidates, and does not file a ticket is not a political party, within the meaning of this constitution.

Sec. 9. No person who has within two

years been an official or candidate of any other party or member of the Citizen's Alliance or similar organization, shall be eligible to any political nomination in any district.

Sec. 10. Before any State political convention is held, a referendum of the membership, to express the choice for nominees, shall be called for.

Sec. 11. No nomination shall be withheld in order to favor any person or party. And any organization that does not expel any member who proposes or advocates such, shall have its charter revoked.

Sec. 12. No member of the party shall announce himself a candidate for a political office. And any member who advocates his own nomination shall be deemed ineligible and liable to expulsion.

Sec. 13. No member shall be eligible as a delegate to a State convention unless he has been a member in the state for a year.

Sec. 14. Whenever a member is elected to any political office, he shall be subject to the supervision of the party for the district he represents, and anyone who refuses to obey the tactics and mandates of the Party will be subject to deposition through recall.

Sec. 15. Delegates to a convention and all nominees must show their dues-cards or a certificate from the financial secretary, showing them in good standing for the required time.

Sec. 16. All acts of a State convention which imply a platform or party program shall be submitted to a membership referendum vote.

Sec. 17. Whenever any organization nominates any member for either a Party position or a political office, the secretary of such an organization must notify the nominee of the fact and instruct him to whom

he should send his acceptance or refusal, which shall be the State office for all positions or offices covering more than a county; for the county offices send to the county secretary and for cities or towns to their respective secretaries.

Sec. 18. All candidates for any political office, nominated by the Socialist Party, shall sign an undated resignation from such office, and deliver the same to the State office if it covers a territory larger than a county. If it covers a county only it shall be delivered to the county secretary. If it is a city or town office or a smaller political division, it shall be delivered to the secretaries of the executive committees, the central committees, or the political committees that have charge or control of the political management in the division from which the nomination was given.

Sec. 19. No nominee shall be placed on the legal ballot unless the resignation provided for has been signed and delivered. And such resignation shall be dated and presented to the proper legal officers, if a recall by referendum has been had by the membership for the district involved.

Sec. 20. Any candidate who does not publicly refuse and protest against any fusion or endorsement offered from any other party, shall be held to have declined the Socialist nomination, and his place shall be filled like other vacancies, without any formal proceeding; though he shall have a right to be heard afterwards in his own defense.

Sec. 21. No person shall be eligible as a candidate for any political office, that is either State or National (which includes congressional), unless he has been a member of the party for two years and of the party in this state for one year, continuously next preceding the nomination. Nor shall he be

eligible for any other office unless he has been a member in the state for one year except in territory where the party has not been in organization for that long, or have no member qualified, that has belonged that long.

ARTICLE XV.

Offenses and Violations of Members.

Section 1. Any violation of any requirement necessary to become a member, or any condition or conduct which is prohibited for an applicant, in order to become a member, shall be charges of offense.

Sec. 2. Any misbehavior or indecorum in words or acts at a meeting of a Branch or Local organization, such as abusive language, refusal to obey the order of the chairman, without having an appeal sustained, physical force or indecent language, shall be sufficient cause for offense, so that a vote may be taken at once, without argument or discussion from either side, to suspend the offender from voice and vote. Such suspension can be made for that meeting only.

Sec. 3. A member must be disciplined for any of the following offenses:

(a) Any attempt to influence any member of a jury, committee or organization, before whom a case of offense has been brought.

(b) For suggesting fusion or endorsement from or for any candidate or organization of any other political party.

(c) For advocating the election or defeat of any candidate of any other party, except when advocacy of the defeat of any other candidate is coupled with the advocacy of the election of a Socialist candidate for that office.

(d) For proposing to vote for, or admitting that he did vote for any candidate of

any other party. This applies without regard to whether the Socialists had a candidate in the field or not. And it applies to all caucuses, conventions and primary elections, but not for nominating petitions.

(e) For allowing his name to appear on the official ballot; or failing to publicly refuse and protest against any endorsement for himself as a candidate for office for any party except the Socialist party.

(f) Embezzlement or misappropriation of any party funds.

(g) Disobeying instructions as a Party official or a political officer.

(h) Attempting to form a rival organization, while the regular organization is recognized in good standing.

(i) For declining to support the State or National constitutions or platforms.

(j) For excessive use of intoxicating drinks.

ARTICLE XVI.

Revocation of Charters.

Section 1. The Executive Committee shall suspend or revoke the charter of any organization for any of the following offenses:

(a) For the adoption of a constitution or platform that is not in conformity with the State or National regulations; provided that the organization shall be notified to correct the error.

(b) For neglecting or refraining from making nominations when it was possible to do so, and when there were members that were qualified for candidates.

(c) For failure to support the regular Socialist nominees for public office.

(d) For failure to expel any member who has in any way violated the regulations or committed any offense that is named in this constitution.

Sec. 2. Any organization that knowingly

admits an expelled member within two years from the time of expulsion shall have its charter revoked.

Sec. 3. Charges in writing must be filed with the Executive Committee, either by a properly certified statement of an organization or by two members in good standing. Upon this information the Committee shall notify the accused organization, which shall have 30 days to reply.

Sec. 4. Suspension by the Executive Committee for a limited time shall be final, but indefinite suspension or revocation shall be subject to appeal to the State Committee, then to the party membership of the State.

ARTICLE XVII.

Recall.

Section 1. No charge shall be necessary for an organization to initiate a recall of any person and a recall does not involve a suspension nor expulsion from membership. But the Executive Committee has the power to suspend any official and appoint someone temporarily to do the work of the position while the referendum on a recall or charge is pending.

Sec. 2. The Executive Committee or the State Committee, by a majority vote, may initiate a recall against any party official or officer.

Sec. 3. When any person is removed or recalled by any means from any State position or political office he shall be removed from all trusts of the party at that time.

Sec. 4. Any member refusing to obey the recall shall be expelled. And any Local or Branch that fails to expel shall have its charter revoked by the Executive Committee, upon notice.

Sec. 5. When a recall or a charge is initiated or filed against a Party official or a political officer, he shall be notified of the

same in time to reply, before a vote is taken on the question.

Sec. 6. Any member against whom a recall has been sustained shall have the same methods of appeal as are allowed persons on trial except in cases where a trial preceded the recall.

ARTICLE XVIII.

Judicial Proceedings.

Section 1. Any member may be censured or suspended without trial or being heard in his own defense for similar offenses to those named in Sec. 2, of Article XV, but no member shall be deposed, expelled or recalled, without being given a chance to be heard, providing he pleads not guilty or denies the charge.

Sec. 2. When a member is accused of an offense, the charge must be in writing, unless it is an offense described in Article XV, Sec. 2. The charge must state specifically the kind of offense and the time and place committed as near as possible.

Sec. 3. When the charges are presented, the organization shall appoint a committee of three or five to examine and report to the organization. The accused shall be served with an exact copy of the complaint and the time set for him to be heard, which should be from one to two weeks. Unless he immediately notifies the secretary that he cannot appear and sets the time when he can give a reply the case will be called and a vote taken on the information of the charge.

Sec. 4. When the accused appears and asks for a reasonable time to prepare, it shall be set. The organization shall have the same privilege to prepare.

Sec. 5. The accused shall have his choice of a trial before a jury of six members or

the membership, which must be stated the first time he appears to give his answer.

Sec. 6. In case of a jury trial both sides shall have the right to challenge for cause and each shall have three peremptory challenges.

Sec. 7. The accused shall also have a right to a change of venue, to some other organization in the county, by showing good cause to the Executive Committee, who shall designate the organization. Such change must be a trial before the membership.

Sec. 8. The organization and the accused may each select some member as counsel to conduct the case.

Sec. 9. The order of trial shall be:

(1) Calling to order and electing some member for chairman and one for secretary, who shall be the judge and clerk of the trial. The judge shall preserve order, but shall not be a witness on either side nor give any opinion. His decisions may be appealed from the same as in any other meeting. The secretary shall keep the minutes of the proceedings and the testimony on both sides.

(2) The charge shall be read and the accused shall reply, by stating either that he denies the charge or that it is not an offense.

(3) The prosecution shall produce its witnesses first, then the defense; then rebuttals on each side. Each witness may be cross-examined in the usual manner, but no new testimony shall be allowed in rebuttal examination.

(4) Arguments on each side may be limited in time. The prosecution shall lead and the defense close in the arguments, after which the jury or the membership before whom the trial is held, shall without

discussion take a vote by ballot on the following questions:

(a) Is defendant guilty of any charge specified?

(b) If so, on what charge?

(c) Shall the penalty be censure, suspension or expulsion?

Sec. 10. A majority of either jury or membership before whom the trial is held shall render the verdict. But an expulsion cannot be made on the verdict of a jury unless it is unanimous nor by the membership, unless a majority of the whole membership in good standing was present at the trial. If the verdict is expulsion, by less than as above stated, the verdict can be submitted to the membership, by referendum ballot, and a majority of those who vote on it shall render the decision.

Sec. 11. If the verdict is expulsion, the defendant may appeal to the State Committee and the State membership.

Sec. 12. If the verdict is either suspension for more than 30 days or an expulsion, rendered by a Branch organization, the defendant may appeal it directly to the membership of the whole Local organization.

Sec. 13. A verdict of censure or suspension not to exceed 30 days by any organization, shall not be appealable. And no verdict for any penalty less than expulsion shall be appealed to either State Committee or State membership.

Sec. 14. In appeals the evidence produced and verdict found shall be agreed to and signed by both parties, then printed and forwarded to each member of the State Committee.

Sec. 15. The cost of the transcript to go on an appeal shall be paid by the side that demands the appeal. But if the final verdict is for the defendant the cost shall be paid by the organization.

Sec. 16. A verdict in favor of the defendant restores him or her to all former rights; but an expulsion will be held against him in the whole party.

Sec. 17. The verdict of State Committee and State membership shall be by majority as follows: "Shall the verdict of (organization or jury) in case of..... be sustained? Yes..... No....."

Sec. 18. Every case of suspension and expulsion for offenses must be immediately reported to the State office, stating the cause of it and giving his occupation and age.

ARTICLE XIX.

State Secretary.

Sec. 1. The State Secretary shall be the Treasurer of the funds, and where the law provides for a Chairman or other name for the head of a political party, he shall fill that place. He shall be the executive head, under the immediate direction and supervision of the Executive Committee.

Sec. 2. He shall transact the necessary work pertaining to the State office, receive money and pay bills which are authorized; keep a list of names of officers, members of Locals, Branches and Members at Large; keep the correct and full minutes of all transactions of the Executive Committee and State Committee, whether by referendum or meetings, and report same in monthly reports, or sooner, if needed; purchase, sell and distribute dues-stamps and literature; issue and sign charters in conjunction with the selected chairman of the Executive Committee; report to the National office as provided in the National organization; report monthly to all organizations and Members at Large the financial conditions, which shall include all amounts received and paid out, the amount of dues-

stamps and literature on hand, the deficit and total debt of the party.

Sec. 3. He may on his own initiative submit any question or appeal to the Executive Committee and State Committee, by correspondence.

Sec. 4. He shall have charge of routing the speakers and organizers, unless they are specially routed by an executive or central committee.

Sec. 5. He shall issue calls for State nominations, elections and conventions; shall submit all motions and referendums when they come in the proper form; shall publish the vote of each organization upon every question submitted.

Sec. 6. He shall notify every organization when it is suspended.

Sec. 7. He shall ascertain the exact standing of every state and national nominee for either Party or political position, and not permit anyone to go on a ballot unless qualified according to State and National constitutions.

Sec. 8. He shall not be a member of either the State Committee or Executive Committee, but he may be employed as an organizer, with the consent of the Executive Committee, when needed.

Sec. 9. He shall be subject to suspension by the Executive Committee, while pending a referendum to determine the question involved.

Sec. 10. He shall furnish a bond in some surety company, in such sum as shall be required by the Executive Committee. The expense to be paid out of the party funds.

Sec. 11. If he fails to secure surety bond in 60 days, the Executive Committee shall declare the position vacant. If the Executive Committee fails to look after this, each one of the members shall be held responsible for any loss that may occur.

Sec. 12. While the party membership does not exceed 1,000, computed by the average dues-stamps sold during the year, the monthly salary of the Secretary shall be \$25.00 for all the regular work required in the Office. When there is extra work and time required in nominations, elections and organization, the Executive Committee may allow extra pay. But such pay to the Secretary or his help shall not exceed during the year an amount more than will equal 5 cents on each dues-stamp sold, nor any amount that will create a debt against the Party.

Sec. 13. He shall provide his own office room at his own expense, and pay his own transportation in attending the meetings of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE XX.

State Executive Committee.

Section 1. The State Executive Committee shall consist of five members, but not more than two shall reside in the same county, nor more than three within the same congressional district.

Sec. 2. The nominations and elections of members on this Committee shall be made as follows: Nominations shall be made by the State at large, at the same time and in same manner as for other State party officials. But two nominees must reside in the first and two in the second congressional district. When the election vote is counted, the one having received the largest vote shall be declared to be elected for the district of the State at large. The others elected shall be the two in each congressional district that have the largest majority votes in the congressional district in which the nominees reside. If no one in one district has a larger vote than some in the other district, then the ones having the

largest in that district shall be declared elected for that district, provided he has a majority over the others residing in that district, by counting the total vote of the state. If part of this Committee is elected the candidates on the second ballot shall be apportioned so as to assure at least two members residing in each of the first and second congressional districts, regardless of the residence of the member at large if elected. The same rule in regards to county residence must apply.

Sec. 3. Three members shall constitute a quorum, except when filling a vacancy; then two shall be sufficient to appoint.

Sec. 4. The transportation fare for attending meetings of the Committee shall be paid out of the party funds. But the maximum fare to be paid for any one member shall not exceed \$5.00 per trip.

Sec. 5. This Committee is the agent of the State Committee and all acts and decisions by it shall be considered as the acts of the State Committee, until reversed.

Sec. 6. This Committee shall select one of its members to be designated as chairman, to whom communications and motions to be submitted, may be sent, instead of the Secretary.

Sec. 7. Any member of the Committee who is absent from one meeting and not present at the time the next meeting is called to order shall be deemed to have resigned. The place shall be temporarily filled by appointment, until someone is elected.

Sec. 8. It shall adopt its own rules of procedure, in conformity with the rules and regulations of the party organization.

Sec. 9. It shall meet on its own initiative or on the call of the Secretary, at least once in three months, at the place where the headquarters is located.

Sec. 10. The business between meetings shall be conducted through correspondence and referendum, the same as the State Committee transacts its business.

Sec. 11. It shall audit the books of the Secretary as often as once every six months; pass upon admission of Members at Large and granting charters; and have general supervision of all financial affairs, propaganda, organization, political nominations and campaigns, unless otherwise arranged by a higher authority.

Sec. 12. It shall prepare or appoint a committee to present to a state convention a draft of rules of procedure and a party platform.

Sec. 13. It may suspend or expel Members at Large. It may suspend or expel any Branch or Local, while pending a referendum to higher authority.

Sec. 14. Members of this Committee may be suspended from service by the State Committee, while pending a referendum to the party membership.

Sec. 15. It may refer any question to the State Committee on a motion by any one of the members.

ARTICLE XXI.

State Committee.

Section 1. The State Committee shall be composed of one member at large from each county that has at least one organized Local in good standing, or ten Members at Large in good standing; and one additional member for each one hundred members in good standing, to be determined by the number of dues-stamps bought during the last six months, or the time of each organization, if less than six months.

Sec. 2. The State Committeeman shall be the county secretary, and where the law provides for a county chairman or other

name for political head he shall fill that position. He shall also be the treasurer of the funds, and shall give such bonds as are determined by the county organization, to be deposited with the State Secretary, as soon as executed and approved.

Sec. 3. In counties where there are more than one State Committeeman, the organizations shall by ballot referendum sent from State office select who shall be county secretary.

Sec. 4. The State Committee shall transact all its business by correspondence and decide any question by referendum, except when a party membership referendum shall call on the Committee to meet.

Sec. 5. All acts of the Secretary and Executive Committee, unless otherwise especially provided in this constitution, shall be subject to the action of this body; and all its acts shall be subject to revision and reversion of the State convention and the party membership.

Sec. 6. Unless there is some motion initiated or criticism made within 15 days from the time the report is sent from the Secretary's office the acts reported shall be taken as having been approved of. And all who fail to report within 15 days on any acts of the Executive Committee, shall be deemed to have resigned and the Executive Committee may appoint temporarily to fill vacancy. Then the Secretary shall notify the county to elect, and the person deposed shall not be eligible to re-election.

Sec. 7. The members of the State Committee shall submit their motions through the Secretary.

Sec. 8. The State Committee shall vote on any motion within 15 days from the time it has been mailed from the State office, and a motion on which a majority of the Com-

mittee does not vote shall be declared lost.

Sec. 9. It shall select and designate one of its members as chairman of the Committee to whom communications on Party affairs may be sent when necessary.

ARTICLE XXII.

Order of Business and Rules of Order.

Section 1. In all regular meetings of Locals and Branches the order shall be:

- 1—Call to order.
- 2—Election of chairman.
- 3—Reading of minutes.
- 4—Reports on applications and admissions.
- 5—New applications and disposition.
- 6—Communications.
- 7—Bills.
- 8—Reports of special committees.
- 9—Reports of standing committees.
- 10—Reports of officials and delegates.
- 11—Unfinished business.
- 12—New business.
- 13—Good and welfare.
- 14—Reports of receipts and disbursements.
- 15—Adjournment.

Sec. 2. Under the order of Good and Welfare no motion shall be entertained except to suspend the rules for some specific purpose. This must have two-thirds vote and not debatable.

Sec. 3. For all deliberative meetings properly called, ten per cent. of the members in good standing, but not less than three, shall be a quorum in any organization, except committee meetings.

Sec. 4. The ayes and nays on any question may be demanded by one-third of the members present, by counting.

Sec. 5. A call of the membership for either the present or a future stated time may be ordered by a majority of those present, even if there is not a quorum.

Sec. 6. A majority vote shall decide all

questions except to suspend regular established rules, which shall require a two-thirds vote.

Sec. 7. Any organization may adopt rules of order and order of business, different from these, but such rules must be definitely recorded in the regular minutes of the organization, to be valid.

Sec. 8. No rules provided for in this article, nor any rules adopted by any organization shall change or interfere with the rules of judicial proceedings in Article XVIII.

Sec. 9. Roberts' Rules of Order shall be the authority in all deliberative and business meetings, except when otherwise adopted in this constitution or adopted by some organization.

ARTICLE XXIII.

Amendments and Adoption.

Sec. 1. An amendment to this constitution can be submitted according to Secs. 2, 3 and 9 of Article V.

Sec. 2. This constitution shall take effect and be in force on the first of the following month after adoption.

Sec. 3.—It repeals and annuls any former constitution.

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